

European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre Environmental Statement

Chapter 11: Bats



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11 BATS

11.1 Introduction

- 1 This section has been prepared by Genesis Oil and Gas Consultants and reviews the information available for bats that are present in the Aberdeen Bay area with the focus being on bats that could be present in the offshore area beyond the high water mark. All bat species found in Scotland are classified as European Protected Species and are fully protected under the Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1994 as amended. This lists a number of offences in relation to bats and the places which they live.
- 2 Surveys for any bat roosts and feeding areas will be carried out to inform the onshore environmental impact assessment. These surveys will be conducted using qualified surveyors at the proposed substation and cable landfall and the results will be presented in the Onshore Environmental Statement.
- 3 The impacts considered in this report are all related to the operational phase and are listed as:
 - physical impacts from direct collision or flying close proximity to wind turbine blades
 - indirect impacts, changing foraging behaviour of bats by attraction to lights and increased risk of physical impacts from collision
- 3 The following technical reports support this chapter:
 - Bat Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Technical Report (Appendix 11.1)

11.2 Summary

- 4 Six species of bats are thought to occur in north-east Scotland, although only three of them are common species. The bats are not expected to use the waters of Aberdeen Bay for feeding and there are no known flyways or migration corridors in the area. Once the proposed EOWDC is operational there is the small possibility that the EOWDC could attract insects and bats offshore due to the small lights required for safety reasons on the wind turbines. The evidence suggests a lack of bats in the offshore waters of Aberdeen Bay. Impacts from the construction, operation and subsequent decommissioning of the EOWDC on bat species are considered to be negligible.
- 5 A thorough survey for bat species and their associated roosts will be undertaken as part of the environmental surveys carried out for the onshore Environmental Impact Assessment to look at the impact of the onshore works.